

**City of Belmont
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2016
One Twin Pines Lane, City Council Chambers**

CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vargas, Foehr, Sebti, Bortoli, Fine & Michaels

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Block, Mittelstadt and Sullivan

STAFF PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Director Gervais, Civil Engineer Palatnik, Recreation Supervisor Steenman, Preschool Teacher Pribor, Preschool Teacher Umali and Administrative Assistant Saggau

COMMUNITY FORUM (Public Comments)

Raymond Brinson spoke regarding maintenance at Hallmark Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Youth Commissioners Sebti and Fine reported on the Youth Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Bortoli reported on the Senior Advisory Committee meeting.

Commissioner Michaels noted the Dog Management Ad Hoc Committee had their first meeting.

Chair Vargas commented on the Save the Music Festival.

CONSENT CALENDAR

September 7, 2016 Minutes

ACTION: On a motion by Commissioner Foehr, seconded by Commissioner Michaels, the Consent Calendar was approved. Vote 6-0 in favor. (Commissioners Block, Mittelstadt and Sullivan absent)

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Update

Civil Engineer Palatnik provided an update on the Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Update. She noted a sidewalk installation policy is being developed and requested the Commission provide input on this topic. She explained four focus areas were determined – Alameda de las Pulgas/Ralston Avenue, Downtown Belmont and east of Downtown, El Camino Real and the Cipriani neighborhood. Civil Engineer Palatnik reviewed the priorities and the recommended projects that are divided into four phases.

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais reminded the Commission that a bike route is being proposed to go through Twin Pines Park.

Discussion ensued.

Comments and suggestions were provided:

Bicycles

- Clarify how bike lanes will be regulated
- Consider creating one better bike path along El Camino Real instead of two separate bike paths for El Camino Real and Old County Road
- Consider parking on only one side of Old County Road
- Prefer to have bike path through Twin Pines Park continue further and not end in the parking lot
- Bike pathway through Twin Pines Park will require community and Commission feedback
- Site specific plan should be determined in Twin Pines Park before installing a bike path
- Focus more on bikes in main arteries
- Improve biking on Alameda between Cipriani and Ralston

Pedestrians

- Focus more on pedestrian paths for school routes
- Make Cipriani School crosswalk access enhancement a high priority
- Address the use of paper trails for mobility
- Expand sidewalks by school locations
- Remove obstacles such as street signs from paths
- Add sidewalks where possible

General

- Start with less costly projects
- Create criteria for judging success and evaluate the projects against the criteria
- Build maps based on the phases
- Consider ways to provide transit uphill
- Prefer doing complete street projects over piecemeal improvements
- Hold off on doing work if area will be repaved

Update on the Belmont Community Learning Center

Recreation Supervisor Steenman and Teachers Umali and Pribor gave a presentation on the Belmont Community Learning Center (BCLC) showing the events and activities offered at the Center. Their daily curriculum and additional enrichment activities were described. The Parent Teacher Conference process was explained. Recreation Supervisor Steenman noted BCLC is a member of Safe Schools.

Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) member Richard Clark reported on the computer center at BCLC and the use of Google Chromebook with a large touch screen. They are looking into getting Google for Education which would provide more tools to use. This would require a separate domain for the school.

Recreation Supervisor Steenman noted the BCLC PTO puts on activities and fundraisers. PTO President Jetal Shah provided the details of the organizations role at BCLC.

Commissioners provided comments and suggestions:

- Good to have the ability to spread the program throughout Barrett and nearby sites for field trips
- Consider many companies as a potential classroom partners
- Parent Handbook is clear and complete
- Assessments useful for parents
- Clubs at Carlmont High School may be able to provide volunteers to assist with language programs
- Encourage interaction with other organizations such as schools
- Look into further partnerships
- Provide a feedback system for parents
- Continue education opportunities for teachers
- Talk to other local preschool to share information

OTHER BUSINESS / UPDATES

Department Reports

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais reported on the following:

- Community Build Day at the Library
- Youth Advisory Committee Meeting
- Parks & Recreation Office and Americans with Disabilities Access
- Davey Glen Park
- Meeting with School District where joint project at Barrett and athletic field enhancements were discussed

Questions and Comments

Commissioner Foehr reported McDougal Field appeared overly saturated.

Parks & Recreation Director Gervais responded to questions:

- The restroom for Alexander Park is being built and the project is expected to be completed by mid-November.
- Davey Glen Park construction is expected to be completed in February 2017.
- Belmont Connects next project is likely to be the benches in front of Walgreens on Ralston and then move on to Barrett Community Center.

Future Agenda Items

Energy Project – Future Solar Options
Youth Engagement
General Plan – Park Element
Davey Glen Update

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Jonathan Gervais
Parks and Recreation Director